MR. KADAKKAVOOR P. MADHAVAN: Yes, Sir. When I had read through the whole of it, in spite of my earnest desire to support Srimati Narayani Amma, I found that it was difficult to support her because honourable members who have got daughters will soon realise that the art of black marketing will soon be developing if this anti-dowry bill is accepted. If anybody wants to get a suitable husband for his daughter, he will find that, not only sometimes, but often times, it is necessary to provide something for the bride-groom and if the law prevents us from doing that—you will see that even giving presents is prohibited—it will not be possible for people who want to see their daughters well married, to fulfil their desire. You will also see that though Srimati Narayani Amma has introduced this Bill with the good intention of helping the women of Travancore, in actual practice, it will injuriously affect them. Now it is possible to find husbands for girls at least by paying dowry. If this Bill is to be introduced, it will not be possible to get husbands for them. As my friend Mr. Chazhikattu Joseph said there may be ugly daughters, ugly females and it will be possible to get them married if there is the attraction of the dowry. An honourable member: What about ugly males? The honourable member Mr. Sukumaran put the romantic question, are you marrying the girl or are you marrying the money? This question can best be dealt with on the platform but in the actual world it is not practicable. I will tell the honourable member Mr. Sukumaran that when his daughter is grown up he will find it difficult to find a husband for her unless he handsomely pays his future son-in-law.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, there is an insinuation in this statement that Mr. Sukumaran's daughter is ugly. (*Laughter.*)

PRESIDENT: No question of comparative good looks or personal reference can be allowed on the floor of this House. It is now half past three. We will have the adjournment motion now and after it is over, we will resume discussion on this bill.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, before moving, I may state the real point.

PRESIDENT: Evidently the honourable member is raising the question because in certain localities orders have been passed for the destruction of plantains without the Director of Agriculture himself going to the spot and seeing the things for himself. Is that the point?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Supposing the Director of Agriculture is asked to go to the spot and submit a report to Government, will the honourable member be satisfied?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I may be allowed to make a statement.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

PRESIDENT : Yes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : In three or four karas of Thiruvella taluk, such as Kaviyoor, Muntiappalli, Kunnamthanam etc., which are included in the area of operation under the control of "Bunchy Top" disease there is no symptom of the disease among the plantains in the locality. Deputations waited on and representations were repeatedly made to the Director of Agriculture requesting him to go to the place and satisfy himself about the actual state of affairs. I met the Director personally and offered my co-operation. I said that if the Director would personally satisfy himself about the prevalence of the disease as the result of his local inspection, I would co-operate with him in the destruction of the plantains. Without caring for such representations and in spite of repeated requests, the subordinates have already destroyed certain plantains in the locality and submitted a report that those places are infected with the disease. The Director of Agriculture after accepting the false and incorrect reports of his subordinates informed me that he could not interfere in the matter.

PRESIDENT : After the receipt of the adjournment motion I made some enquiries about this matter. I understand that the Director has got a report regarding the actual existence of the disease in those localities. If the honourable member is in a position to say that that information is based on inaccurate data and if he is prepared to say it openly on the floor of the House I shall ask the Director of Agriculture to go and verify the things for himself.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : Orders may kindly be issued to the authorities concerned to stop any further destruction of the plantains till the question is finally disposed of after local inspection by the Director accompanied by me.

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : I have no objection to inspect the place immediately after the Legislative session is over.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : In the meantime will orders be issued for stopping the destruction of plantains in those areas?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : Yes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : In that case I do not want to move the adjournment motion.

The motion was therefore not moved.

TRAVANCORE ANTI-DOWRY BILL—(*Contd.*)

PRESIDENT : The discussion on the Anti-dowry Bill will continue.

MR. KADAKKAVOOR P. MADHAVAN : My friend Mr. Chazhikattu Joseph has clearly brought out that it is a dangerous piece of legislation for certain communities such as the Christians and the Brahmins because there is no separate provision for females in those communities As such the Anti-dowry Bill is dangerous. Taking into consideration, all these aspects, I oppose the introduction of the Bill.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly